

What is claimed is:

1. A new media identification system comprising:
 - at least one analysis module for receiving work from a plurality of sources and generating a corresponding representation thereof;
 - 5 at least one First Tier identification (ID) server for identifying received works; and
 - at least one Second Tier ID server for identifying repeating received works.
2. The system of claim 1, wherein said at least one analysis module further includes an input port configured to receive said received work from a networked source.
3. The system of claim 1, wherein said at least one analysis module further includes an input port configured to receive said received work from a broadcast source.
- 15 4. The system of claim 1, wherein said at least one analysis module further includes an input port configured to receive said received work in the form of a pre-broadcast digital form.

5. The system of claim 1, wherein said at least one analysis module and said at least one ID server may be coupled over a network.

6. The system of claim 5, wherein said network comprises the Internet.

7. The system of claim 1, wherein said corresponding representation
5 comprises feature vectors.

8. The system of claim 1, wherein said corresponding representation comprises a spectral representation of said received work.

9. The system of claim 1, wherein said corresponding representation comprises the text output of a speech recognition system.

10. The system of claim 1, wherein said corresponding representation comprises the musical score output of a music transcription system.

11. The system of claim 1, wherein said corresponding representation comprises a bit calculated key.

12. The system of claim 1, wherein said First Tier ID server is configured to
15 identify said received work using feature vectors.

13. The system of claim 1, wherein said First Tier ID server is configured to identify said received work using a spectral representation of said received work.
14. The system of claim 1, wherein said First Tier ID server is configured to
5 identify said received work using the text output of a speech recognition system.
15. The system of claim 1, wherein said First Tier ID server is configured to identify said received work using the musical score output of a music transcription system.
- 10 16. The system of claim 1, wherein said First Tier ID server is configured to identify said received work using a bit calculated key.
17. The system of claim 1, wherein said First Tier ID server is configured to identify said received work using feature vectors.
18. The system of claim 1, wherein said Second Tier ID server is configured to
15 identify said received work using a spectral representation of said received work.

19. The system of claim 1, wherein said Second Tier ID server is configured to identify said received work using the text output of a speech recognition system.
20. The system of claim 1, wherein said Second Tier ID server is configured to identify said received work using the musical score output of a music transcription system.
21. The system of claim 1, wherein said Second Tier ID server is configured to identify said received work using a bit calculated key.
22. The system of claim 1, wherein said at least one analysis modules are further configured to receive a plurality of streaming sources for analysis at a single location.
23. The system of claim 1, wherein said at least one analysis modules are further configured to receive a plurality of streaming sources for analysis at a plurality of different access points of the network.
24. The system of claim 1, wherein said at least one analysis module is configured to provide said representations to said at least one First Tier ID server at a predetermined time interval.

25. The system of claim 24, wherein said predetermined time interval comprises at least once a day.
26. The system of claim 24, wherein said predetermined time interval comprises approximately once an hour.
- 5 27. The system of claim 24, wherein said at least one analysis module is configured to provide said representations to said at least one First Tier ID server in approximately real time.
28. The system of claim 24, wherein said at least one analysis module is configured to provide said representations to said at least one First Tier ID server based on an out-of-band event.
- 10 29. The system of claim 1, wherein said First Tier ID server is further configured to generate a playlist of identified works.
30. A method for identifying new media comprising:
- receiving a segment of a media stream by a First Tier ID server;
- 15 attempting, by said First Tier ID server, to identify said segment;
- if identification is not possible, then, determining whether said segment is similar to previously received unidentified segments; and

if said segment is similar to a previously received unidentified segment,
then sending said segment to a Second Tier ID server for
identification.

31. The method of claim 30, wherein said Second Tier ID server includes a
5 plurality of tiers of ID servers.
32. The method of claim 30, further including the act of providing a reference
database of segments expected to be detected on said First Tier ID server.
33. A system for managing the contents of an n-Tiered ID System comprising:
a Tier N server including a database;
10 at least one Tier N+1 server; and
wherein said Tier N server is configured to send repeating unidentified
segments to said Tier N+1 for identification.
34. The system of claim 4, wherein said Tier N+1 server is configured to notify
15 said Tier N server of a repeating segment if a repeating segment is
identified.
35. The system of claim 33. wherein each successive Tier N+1 server includes a
database larger than the previous tier.

36. The system of claim 35, wherein said successive tiers operate in parallel.

37. The system of claim 36, wherein the operation of said successive tiers is aborted upon the identification of an unknown segment by a member of said successive tiers.

5 38. The system of claim 33, further including a set of smaller Tier-1 ID servers having databases smaller than said Tier N server.

39. A system for identifying new media comprising:

means for receiving a segment of a media stream by a First Tier ID server;

10 means for attempting, by said First Tier ID server, to identify said segment;

means for determining whether said segment is similar to previously received unidentified segments if identification is not possible; and

15 means for sending said segment to a Second Tier ID server for identification if said segment is similar to a previously received unidentified segment.

40. The system of claim 39, wherein said Second Tier ID server includes means for providing a plurality of tiers of ID servers.

41. The method of claim 39, further including means for providing a reference database of segments expected to be detected on said First Tier ID server.

42. A program storage device readable by a machine containing a set of instructions to perform a method by the machine, the method comprising:

5 receiving a segment of a media stream by a First Tier ID server;

attempting, by said First Tier ID server, to identify said segment;

if identification is not possible, then, determining whether said segment is similar to previously received unidentified segments; and

if said segment is similar to a previously received unidentified segment, then sending said segment to a Second Tier ID server for identification.

43. The device of claim 42, wherein said Second Tier ID server includes a plurality of tiers of ID servers.

44. The device of claim 42, further including the act of providing a reference database of segments expected to be detected on said First Tier ID server.